

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application.

Claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1-5, 9 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being directed to subject matter assertedly anticipated by the disclosure of *Hinokuma et al.* (U.S. 6,495,290 B1). Claims 6-8 and 10-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were deemed to contain allowable subject matter. Additional informalities were also raised in claims 3 and 13 and in the specification.

The rejection of claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and rejection of claims 1-5, 9 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), second paragraph, may properly be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome in light of the amendments submitted herewith and cancellation of claims 1-5, 9, and 13-15, as a matter of expediency in order to place the claims in order for allowance.

Regarding claims 6-8 and 10-12, Applicants have amended dependent claims 6-8 and 10-12 to be in independent form as suggested by the Examiner and to correct idiomatic errors in order to place the claims in order for allowance. Claim 3 and 4 have also been amended to depend on claim 6 as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

In response to further objections raised by the Examiner in claims 3 and 13, Applicants have amended claim 3 as suggested by the Examiner to recite “no voltage is applied” and “in contact with oxygen,” at line 9 and 15, respectively. Claim 13 has been canceled by amendment.

In response to the objections raised by the Examiner in the specification, the Applicants have amended the specification to correct informalities. The amendment includes no new matter.

Therefore, it is submitted that the above amended claims and amendment to the specification address the matters raised in the Office Action.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or to charge any deficiency in required fee to Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 10-12 are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Note to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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